



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2021-0294; Airspace Docket No. 20-ASO-31]

RIN 2120-AA66

Proposed Amendment and Removal of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Eastern United States

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to amend three jet routes, and remove four jet routes, in the eastern United States. This action is in support of the Northeast Corridor Atlantic Coast Route Project to improve the efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS) and reduce dependency on ground-based navigational systems.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Send comments on this proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590; telephone: (800) 647-5527, or (202) 366-9826. You must identify FAA Docket No. FAA-2021-0294; Airspace Docket No. 20-ASO-31 at the beginning of your comments. You may also submit comments through the Internet at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

FAA Order 7400.11E, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can be viewed online at https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/. For further information, you can contact the Rules and Regulations Group, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20591; telephone: (202) 267-8783. The Order is also available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

For information on the availability of FAA Order 7400.11E at NARA, email:

fedreg.legal@nara.gov or go to <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Gallant, Rules and Regulations Group, Office of Policy, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority for this Rulemaking

The FAA's authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle I, Section 106 describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the agency's authority. This rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart I, Section 40103. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to assign the use of the airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. This regulation is within the scope of that authority as it would modify the route structure as necessary to preserve the safe and efficient flow of air traffic within the NAS.

Comments Invited

Interested parties are invited to participate in this proposed rulemaking by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Comments that provide the factual basis supporting the views and suggestions presented are particularly helpful in developing reasoned regulatory decisions on the proposal. Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, aeronautical, economic, environmental, and energy-related aspects of the proposal.

Communications should identify both docket numbers (FAA Docket No. FAA-2021-0294; Airspace Docket No. 20-ASO-31) and be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Management Facility (see "ADDRESSES" section for address and phone number). You may also submit comments through the Internet at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments on this action must submit with those comments a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: “Comments to FAA Docket No. FAA-2021-0294; Airspace Docket No. 20-ASO-31.” The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter.

All communications received on or before the specified comment closing date will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposal contained in this action may be changed in light of comments received. All comments submitted will be available for examination in the public docket both before and after the comment closing date. A report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerned with this rulemaking will be filed in the docket.

Availability of NPRM

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded through the Internet at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Recently published rulemaking documents can also be accessed through the FAA’s web page at https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/airspace_amendments/.

You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office (see “ADDRESSES” section for address and phone number) between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours at the office of the Eastern Service Center, Federal Aviation Administration, Room 210, 1701 Columbia Ave., College Park, GA 30337.

Availability and Summary of Documents for Incorporation by Reference

This document proposes to amend FAA Order 7400.11E, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated July 21, 2020, and effective September 15, 2020. FAA Order 7400.11E is publicly available as listed in the ADDRESSES section of this document. FAA Order 7400.11E lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points.

The Proposal

The FAA is proposing an amendment to 14 CFR part 71 to amend three jet routes, and remove four jet routes, in the eastern United States. This action would support the Northeast Corridor Atlantic Coast Route Project by amending and removing certain jet route segments that are being replaced by RNAV routing. Additionally, the proposed jet route changes would reduce aeronautical chart clutter by removing unneeded route segments.

The proposed route changes are as follows:

J-42: J-42 currently extends between the Delicias, Mexico, VOR/DME, and the Boston, MA, VOR/DME. This action would remove the segments between Texarkana, AR, and Boston, MA. The amended route would extend between Delicias, Mexico and Texarkana, AR. The portion within Mexico is excluded.

J-55: J-55 currently extends in, two parts, between the intersection of the Flat Rock, VA 212° and the Raleigh-Durham, NC, 224° radials, and the intersection of the Hopewell, VA, 030° and the Nottingham, MD 174° radials; and between the Sea Isle, NJ and Presque Isle, ME. The FAA proposes to remove the segments between Sea Isle, NJ and Presque Isle ME. The amended route would extend from the intersection of the Flat Rock, VA 212° and the Raleigh-Durham, NC, 224° radials, and the intersection of the Hopewell, VA, 030° and the Nottingham, MD 174° radials.

J-150: J-150 extends between the Gordonsville, VA, VORTAC and the Marconi, MA, 082° and the Boston, MA, 097° radials (STOOL intersection). The FAA proposes to remove the entire route.

J-191: J-191 currently extends between the Robbinsville, NJ, VORTAC, and the Wilmington, NC, VORTAC. The FAA proposes to remove the segments between Robbinsville, NJ, and Patuxent, MD. The amended route would extend between Hopewell, VA and Wilmington, NC.

J-193: J-193 currently extends between the Wilmington, NC, VORTAC, and the intersection of the Harcum, VA, VORTAC 006° and Hopewell, VA, VORTAC 030° radials (HUBBS intersection). The FAA proposes to remove the entire route.

J-222: J-222 currently extends between the Robbinsville, NJ, VORTAC, and the Cambridge, NY, VOR/DME. The FAA proposes to remove the entire route.

J-225: J-225 currently extends between the Cedar Lake, NJ, VOR/DME, and the Providence, RI, VOR/DME. The FAA proposes to remove the entire route.

Jet routes are published in paragraph 2004, of FAA Order 7400.11E dated July 21, 2020, and effective September 15, 2020, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The jet routes listed in this document would be subsequently amended in, or removed, respectively, from the Order.

FAA Order 7400.11, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, is published yearly and effective on September 15.

Regulatory Notices and Analyses

The FAA has determined that this proposed regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. It, therefore: (1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under Department of Transportation (DOT) Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a regulatory evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that will only affect air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this proposed rule, when promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Environmental Review

This proposal will be subject to an environmental analysis in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, "Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures" prior to any FAA final regulatory action.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

The Proposed Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

PART 71--DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, B, C, D, AND E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

1. The authority citation for part 71 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(f), 106(g); 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959-1963 Comp., p. 389.

§71.1 [Amended]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of FAA Order 7400.11E, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated July 21, 2020, and effective September 15, 2020 is amended as follows:

Paragraph 2004 Jet Routes.

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J-42 [Amended]

From Delicias, Mexico, via Fort Stockton, TX; Abilene, TX; Ranger, TX; Texarkana, AR; excluding the portion in Mexico.

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J-55 [Amended]

From INT Flat Rock, VA, 212° and Raleigh-Durham, NC, 224° radials; Raleigh-Durham; INT Raleigh-Durham 035° and Hopewell, VA, 234° radials; Hopewell; INT Hopewell 030° and Nottingham, MD, 174° radials.

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J-150 [Remove]

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J-191 [Amended]

From Hopewell, VA; to Wilmington, NC

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J-193 [Remove]

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J-222 [Remove]

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J-225 [Remove]

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Issued in Washington, DC, April 28, 2021.

George Gonzalez,
Acting Manager, Rules and Regulations Group.

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